

THE essay on the two hundredth anniversary of Johnson's birth appeared first in the Literary Supplement of the *Times*; that on *Early Lives of the Poets* in the *Scottish Historical Review*. For permission to reprint these essays I desire to thank the proprietors of the *Times* and Mr. James MacLachose. The Delegates of the Clarendon Press have kindly granted a similar permission for the essays on *Samuel Johnson* and on *Johnson's Shakespeare*. The essays on *Johnson without Boswell* and on *Johnson's Lives of the Poets* are here printed for the first time. I must not omit to express my deep obligations to the editions of Dr. Birkbeck Hill, which make the study of Johnson the easiest of pastimes.